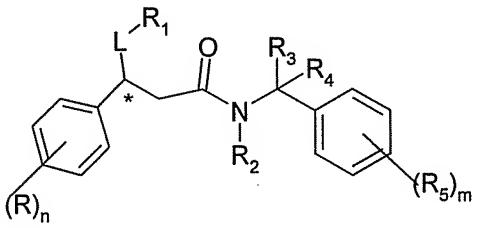
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I)



(I)

wherein

R is halogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, cyano, C_{1-4} alkoxy, trifluoromethyl or trifluoromethoxy;

R_1 is a R_1 is a 4, 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic group, wherein the 4, 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic group may optionally be substituted by one to three substituents, which may be the same or different, selected from $(CH_2)_pR_6$, wherein p is zero or an integer from 1 to 4 and R_6 is selected from:

halogen,

C_{1-4}alkoxy,

C_{1-4}alkyl,

C_{3-7}cycloalkyl,

C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted by halogen, cyano or C_{1-4} alkoxy,

hydroxy,

cyano,

nitro,

trifluoromethyl,

carboxy,

$NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl),

$N(C_{1-4}$ alkyl$)_2$

$NH(C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl),

$N(C_{1-4}$ alkyl$)(C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl);

$NH(C_{1-4}$alkylOC_{1-4}alkoxy),

$OC(O)NR_7R_8$,

$NR_8C(O)$ R_7 or

$C(O)NR_7R_8$;

R_2 is hydrogen, or C_{1-4} alkyl ;

R_3 and R_4 independently are hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl or R_3 together with R_4 and the carbon to which they are bonded is C_{3-7} cycloalkyl;

R_5 is trifluoromethyl, $S(O)_qC_{1-4}$ alkyl, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, trifluoromethoxy, halogen or cyano;

R_7 and R_8 independently are hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{3-7} cycloalkyl;

L is a single ~~or a double~~ bond;

n is an integer from 1 to 3;

m is zero or an integer from 1 to 3;

q is zero or an integer from 1 to 2;

provided that

~~a) when L is a double bond, R_1 is not an optionally substituted 5 or 6 membered heteroaryl group, in which the 5-membered heteroaryl group contains at least one heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulphur or nitrogen and the 6-membered heteroaryl group contains from 1 to 3 nitrogen atoms;~~

[[b]] a) the group R_1 is linked to the carbon atom shown as * via a carbon atom;

and

[[c]] b) when the heteroatom contained in the group R_1 is substituted, p is not zero;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R is halogen or C_{1-4} alkyl and n is an integer from 1 to 2.

3. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R_5 is trifluoromethyl, methyl, methoxy, bromine, chlorine or fluorine atom and m is an integer from 1 to 2.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R is halogen or C_{1-4} alkyl and n is an integer from 1 to 2~~; R_1 is piperidyl, 2-morpholinyl, 1,2,3,6-tetrahydro-4-pyridinyl, pyridyl or pyrrolidinyl and wherein R_1 is optionally substituted by one or two groups selected from halogen, C_{1-4} alkyl or ethylC_{1-4} alkoxy~~; R_2 and R_3 are independently hydrogen or methyl; R_4 is hydrogen, methyl or together with R_3 is cyclopropyl and R_5 is trifluoromethyl, methyl, methoxy, bromine, chlorine or fluorine atom and m is preferably an integer from 1 to 2.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A compound selected from

N-{(1*R*)-1-[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethyl}-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-*N*-methyl-3-(4-piperidinyl)propionamide(diastereoisomer 1);

N-{(1*S*)-1-[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethyl}-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-*N*-methyl-3-(4-piperidinyl)propionamide (diastereoisomer 2);

N-{(1*R*)-1-[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethyl}-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(4-fluoro-4-piperidinyl)-*N*-methylpropionamide (diastereoisomer 1;

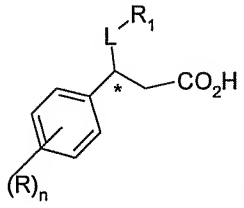
N-[(3,5-dibromophenyl)methyl]-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(4-fluoro-4-piperidinyl)-*N*-methylpropionamide (enantiomer 2);

N-{[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]methyl}-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(3-fluoro-3-piperidinyl)-*N*-methylpropionamide (diastereoisomer A);

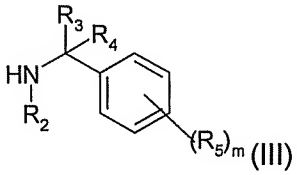
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts ~~and solvates~~ thereof.

8. (Withdrawn) A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 1 which comprises reacting an activated derivative of the carboxylic acid of formula (II)

wherein R_1 has the meaning previously defined or is a protected group thereof, with amine (III)



(II)



(III)

wherein R_2 is C_{1-4} alkyl or a nitrogen protecting group, followed where necessary by removal of any protecting group.

9-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in claim 1 in admixture with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R is fluorine or chlorine or methyl and n is an integer from 1 to 2.

15. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R is fluorine or chlorine or methyl and n is an integer from 1 to 2~~; R_1 is piperidyl, 2-morpholinyl, 1,2,3,6-tetrahydro-4-pyridinyl, pyridyl or pyrrolidinyl and wherein R_1 is optionally substituted by one or two groups selected from fluorine, methyl or ethylC_{1-4} alkoxy~~; R_2 and R_3 are independently hydrogen or methyl; R_4 is hydrogen, methyl or together with R_3 is cyclopropyl and R_5 is trifluoromethyl, methyl, methoxy, bromine, chlorine or fluorine atom and m is preferably an integer from 1 to 2.

16. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment of a depressive state in a mammal in need thereof, comprising administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.

17. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said depressive state is a Major Depressive Disorder.

18. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said mammal is man.

19. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment of anxiety in a mammal in need thereof, comprising administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.

20. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis in a mammal in need thereof, comprising administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.